

Oldham and District Branch of the Manchester and
Lancashire Family History Society

Newsletter February 2018

oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk



Branch News

Next Meeting

Saturday 10th February

Zepplin Raid on Cleethorpes

Speaker: Dorothy Bintley

The day in 1916 when 31 soldiers of the Manchester Regiment died in Cleethorpes.

At 2.00 pm at the Lees Suite at Oldham Civic Centre

Free to members. Non-members £2.50

If you are coming by car or bus: walk down to the bottom of the Civic Centre car park. Keep the Queen Elizabeth Hall on your left and the entrance is either a revolving or a disabled door to your left. If you go in one of these doors the security guard will direct you to the Lees Suite. There is also a ramp with a vehicle barrier leading to these doors from the bottom end of West Street.

The Civic Centre car park is free but you still need to get a ticket to display.

If you are coming by tram: get off at King Street and walk along King Street then a short way up West Street, where you will see a ramp (with a vehicle barrier) which you can walk up, leading to the entrance doors on your left.

If you are coming by car from outside the area and need more detailed instructions please email us on oldham@mlfhs.org.uk

Sad News

From Mary Pendlebury

I have just read in the Oldham Times that Eric Tongue, who was a member of the Oldham & District Branch committee for many years, died on New Year's Eve.

He was a quiet man and worked untiringly for the Society. He was Treasurer and took all the worry of the finances for the annual London visits for me when I was organiser.

We will miss him very much. Another really nice man like Arthur Davenport who died last year.

Mary Pendlebury
Oldham

All the members of Oldham Committee extend their deepest sympathy to Eric's family and echo Mary's words that Eric will be greatly missed.

Society News

Saturday 3rd February 2018, 10.30am: Beginners' Talk - Civil Registration

Jean Newman will explain Birth, Marriage and Death certificates in England and Wales, with brief mention of other parts of UK. Why certificates are important, how they were made and how to find them. Ideas for problem solving will be discussed.

These talks are aimed at people new to family history research or those who simply wish to refresh their knowledge. Talks will normally be held in the Performance Space on the ground floor of Manchester Central Library on Saturday mornings from 10.30am until approximately 12.30pm.. The talks are free to Society members but non-members are most welcome to attend for a small charge of £3.00 (refundable for anyone who joins on the day).

Booking is recommended and helps in planning. An online booking facility is available on our web site at www.mlfhs.org.uk (Click on the 'Eventbrite' link) or alternatively telephone us on 0161-234 1060 or e-mail office@mlfhs.org.uk

Participants may attend any or all of these topics as desired. It is expected that we will run these on a regular basis, depending on demand.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE www.mlfhs.org.uk

Saturday 17th February, Anglo - Scots Meeting DNA, Double Helix History and The UK

A Talk by Dr Jerome de Groot at 2pm at Manchester Central Library

In this talk Dr. de Groot will look at the ways that DNA sequencing is being used for family history. He will look at specific techniques, outlining how they work, and also think carefully about the consequences of DNA investigation to the way that we as a society think about the past. Dr.de Groot will also mention nationhood and the ways that different ethnicities are presented in DNA family history results.

Jerome de Groot teaches at the University of Manchester. He is the author of *Consuming History* (2016), *Remaking History* (2015) and *The Historical Novel* (2008). He is currently AHRC Leadership Fellow for the project 'Double Helix History'.

Meeting will be held in PS1 on the ground floor

Booking for this talk will open on 21st January using the Eventbrite link on the

Society webpage.

Representation of The People Act 1918 - Vote 100

You will be hearing a great deal about Women's Suffrage and the campaign for the vote in this centenary year of women first gaining a vote under the Representation of the People Act of 1918.

To celebrate this members of the MLFHS will be writing a series of blogs about tracing your female ancestors with special reference to some remarkable women from the Greater Manchester area.

Read the first blog :

<https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/2018/01/15/tracing-your-female-ancestors-and-the-law/>

Local News

Help Needed - Research on Mary Jane Rhodes

We've had a message from Stewart who is searching for his grandmother, Mary Jane Rhodes. Mary Jane was the mother of Clara Rhodes who was born in the Bradford Workhouse in August 1880.

This is Stewart's message:

I am trying to unravel the history of my Great Grandmother, Mary Jane Rhodes (possibly, born Oldham on 30th. April 1851) and was wondering if any of your members have, or are, researched her?

My reason for asking is that her history does not appear straightforward and I would welcome a second opinion.

Firstly, the elements about which I am reasonably confident are:

Her mother was Nancy Rhodes (nee Whitehead) who married John Rhodes on 10th. July 1836 at Manchester in the church of St. Mary, St. Denys and St. George.

Nancy had four children; Mary (1838-1843), Nelson (1840), Joseph (1842), George (1849) and Mary Jane (1851)

Mary Jane appears in both the 1861 (Waterhead) and 1871 (Prestwich-cum-Oldham) Census with her mother.

In November 1871 Mary Jane was sent to Manchester prison being sentenced to 4 months hard labour for her part in the theft of a shawl. She was released on 26th March 1872. The Prison records show George her elder brother of Waterhead Mill as next of kin.

Wedding 1 - On May 6th 1872 Mary Jane married John Thomas Morris at Waterhead Parish Church, the witnesses being her brother Nelson and his wife Alice.

She has no father listed on the Marriage certificate (which would align with the Birth Certificate), whilst John Thomas Morris's father is recorded as Francis.

Secondly, those elements have some basis but are more circumstantial than proven fact.

Wedding 2 - on February 8th 1874 John Thomas Morris marries Catherine Davies at Rochdale, his father being recorded as Francis. He is recorded as a bachelor suggesting it was his first marriage, rather than widower if his wife had died.

A search of the Census return shows; only one father/son combination with an age/location fit and that is the same John Thomas Morris as in Wedding 1.

No death records can be found for a Mary Jane Morris (or Rhodes), nor any records of the marriage being annulled. (In reality divorce was too expensive for most people).

There is no record of a Mary Jane Morris in the 1881 Census. Conversely, John and Catherine appear together in the 1881 Census (Wales), 1891 Census (Oldham), 1901 (Bury) and by himself in the 1911 Census as an inmate at Bury Workhouse.

This gives rise to a possible hypothesis.

Records for Mary Jane Rhodes (born Oldham April 1851) appear in the 1861 and 1871 Census only. However records a Mary Jane Rhodes (born circa 1852) appear in the 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census with a birth place of Bradford never having appeared in any previous Census (i.e. the 1861 and 1871 Census). Could it be the same person?

One possible explanation is she and her husband parted company and she went to Bradford under her maiden name, as gaining employment in Oldham would have been very difficult due to her prison sentence for theft.

Is anyone researching this MaryJane Rhodes? Could the Mary Jane Rhodes above of Oldham be the same Mary Jane Rhodes who gave birth to Clara Rhodes in Bradford?

If you email this newsletter I will pass your message on to Stewart.

oldham_newsletter@mlfhs.org.uk

Help Needed - Chadderton Cemetery

We have also had this request from Nigel:-

Do you know anyone who would be able to photograph gravestones for me at Chadderton Cemetery? Unfortunately, I am not local so I can't do this myself.

If you can help Nigel please mail the newsletter and I will pass your reply on to him.

Talks by Other Groups (which are not part of our society)

Chadderton Historical Society

Folklore and Traditions

A talk by John Doughty at Chadderton Football Club at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st February.

Oldham Historical Research Group

A Victorian Society:

Oldham Photographic Society - The First 150 Years

A talk by the author Christine Widdall at Oldham Local Studies and Archives at 7pm on Wednesday 14th February.

Moorside and District Historical Society

Hodge Clough Hamlet

An illustrated presentation by Mike Smith at St Thomas' Church Hall Lounge, Moorside at 7.30pm on Monday 19th February.

Research News

Findmypast adds Manchester burial and marriage records

Thousands of burial and marriage records covering parishes in the Diocese of Manchester are now available via Findmypast.

The collection includes 50,000 [death and burial records](#) from 1570 to 1990 and 913,000 [banns and marriage records](#) from 1570 to 1936, many of which are accompanied by images of the original records.

The records were obtained as part of a partnership with [FamilySearch](#), where they are also available to view for free.

Update from Lancashire Online Parish Clerk

[Marriages 1890 to 1898](#) from the Church of St Thomas, Werneth, Oldham

[Banns 1812 to 1818 and 1833 to 1836](#) from the Church of St Mary, Oldham

[Baptisms 1884 to 1904](#) from the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary, Oldham

[Baptisms 1878 to 1887](#) from the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Patrick, Oldham

[Baptisms 1874 to 1878](#) from the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Patrick, Oldham

That's all for this month.

Written and edited by Sue Forshaw

Assisted editing by Irene Whitby